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TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the year 1958

W. J. BIRCHALL,

M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

G. T. WOODS,

F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



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ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Tarvin Rural District, For the year 1958

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Tarvin Rural District for the year 1958.

The National Vital Statistics show a slight increase in the Birth and Death Rates, but a fall in the Infant Mortality Rate, which is the lowest ever recorded. Locally there is a slight rise in the Birth Rate and a fall in the Crude Death and Infant Mortality Rates.

Measles (55 cases) was the chief infectious disease notified; there were thirteen mild cases of Scarlet Fever, but again no case of Diphtheria was reported.

Despite this, however, I think it desirable to remind parents that Diphtheria Immunisation of children is still of the greatest importance as the risk of infection by this disease is still with us.

It is also desirable to remind everyone that the risk of Smallpox still exists particularly in the unvaccinated. In these days of air travel a carrier can circulate among the public for a period before the disease is detected.

During 1958 there was an outbreak of Smallpox in a neighbouring area, with a fatal case and as a precautionary measure the staff of the Public Health Department were re-vaccinated.

I must also express the importance of the scheme for vaccination against Poliomyelitis and this can be carried out by the family doctor or at clinics.

I am pleased to see that the Hargrave water main scheme has progressed well. The long awaited schemes for sewerage at Tarvin and Kelsall are still only on paper at the Ministry and the urgency of a favourable decision to start work at Tarvin is more evident than ever.

As previously I have included an extract from my Report as Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services operating on behalf of the Cheshire County Council in the South West Cheshire Division, of which the Tarvin Rural District forms part.

In conclusion I would like to record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance of the Chief Public Health Inspector and the staff of the Health Department throughout the year, and their great help to me in compiling this Report.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor Charles Moss (Chairman)
" G. W. Penk (Vice-Chairman)
" L. N. Jones
" H. E. Mottershead
" F. Newport
" J. G. Harding
" Rev. E. H. Barnes
" H. G. Lloyd
" H. Lewis
" J. Vernon
" J. F. Windsor
" H. Dimelow
" R. N. Salmon
" J. H. Griffies
" H. R. Tunstall

Ex-officio:

Councillor F. Carr (Chairman of the Council)
" F. N. Craddock (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

Clerk to the Council:

J. H. Moore-Dutton (Solicitor)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. Birchall, M.B., Ch.B., (Hons.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H. Office: 16, White Friars,
Chester. Tel. Chester 20071.

Chief Public Health Inspector, Rodent Officer and Petroleum Officer:

G. T. Woods, F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector's Certificate (Joint Board); Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate (R.S.H.); Diploma in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works (R.S.H.); Certificate of examination for membership of the Institution of Public Health Engineers. Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. Mason, M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector's Certificate (Joint Board); Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate (R.S.H.); Course in Bacteriology of Food Inspection.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. K. Hughes, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Public Health Inspector's Certificate; Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate (R.S.H.). (From March, 1958).

Clerk: A. Swain.

Clerk/Typist: Miss Jean Rock.

Rodent Operative: H. Williamson.

MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) **Laboratory Facilities**

The services of the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead, and of Harold Lowe, Esq., M.Sc., F.I.C., Assay Office, are utilised for bacteriological and chemical examinations respectively.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities**

Cases of infectious disease are removed to Clatterbridge Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge. Cases of sickness and accident are removed to the Chester Royal Infirmary or the General Hospital, Clatterbridge, by the ambulance of the Cheshire County Council supplemented by the Chester City Ambulance as an Agency Service.

(c) **Nursing in the Home**

There are District Nurses engaged in all the larger villages for attendance on the sick.

The trained Health Visitors of the County Council also visit the homes in the District for the purpose of advice, inspection and assistance under the maternity, child-welfare and tuberculosis schemes.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics**, including clinics solely for the area are as follows:—

Farndon, Tattenhall, Tarvin, Kelsall and Malpas — Infant Welfare.

Hoole — Ante and Post Natal, Infant Welfare, Orthopaedic, Dental and Speech Therapy.

Chester — Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis.

(e) **Hospitals**

The General Hospital at Clatterbridge is available for residents in the area.

There are, in addition, smaller Cottage Hospitals in the neighbourhood, which receive patients from the area, viz.: Tarporley and Whitchurch.

Larger Hospitals are also available in Chester and Liverpool; for example, the Chester Royal Infirmary, Chester City Hospital, etc.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1958 was 16.4 per 1,000 population, compared with 16.1 for 1957.

The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1958 was 11.7 per 1,000 population, compared with 11.5 for 1957.

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales, i.e., Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births was 22.5, the rate for 1957 was 23.0.

The National Neo-Mortality Rate for deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age was 16.2 per 1,000 live births.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Formation of District

The Tarvin Rural District was created in 1894 from parts of the Unions of Tarvin and Whitchurch. The Rural District of Malpas was created at the same time from the Union of Whitchurch. The area of the District was varied in 1936 by the Chester County Review Order, and major portions of Tarvin and Malpas R.D.'s were amalgamated to form the present Tarvin Rural District.

Area: 62,593 acres.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Population, estimated by Registrar General, Mid-Year, 1958 | 14,760 |
| Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books | 4,697 |
| Average number of persons per house | 3.2 |
| Number of houses built (i.e., completed in 1958)— | |
| Private Enterprise | 22 |
| Council Houses | 6 |
| Rateable Value at 1st April, 1958 | £119,670 |
| Product of 1d. Rate at 1st April, 1958 (Estimated) | £468 |

The area is almost entirely agricultural and residential, farming being the largest labour-employing occupation. There are no other large industries.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1958

Births

| LIVE BIRTHS | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Legitimate | 126 | 110 | 236 |
| Illegitimate | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| | <hr/> 129 | <hr/> 119 | <hr/> 248 |

| | |
|---|------|
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population | 16.8 |
| Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Births | 1.06 |
| Corrected Birth Rate | 17.8 |
| Illegitimate Live Births per cent of all Live Births | 4.8% |

Still Births

| STILL BIRTHS | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Legitimate | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Illegitimate | — | 1 | 1 |
| | <hr/> 1 | <hr/> 5 | <hr/> 6 |

| | |
|---|------|
| Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and still births | 23.6 |
|---|------|

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE BIRTH RATES FOR LAST DECADE

| ENG. AND | | | | | ENG. AND | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| TARVIN R.D. WALES | | | | | TARVIN R.D. WALES | | | | | | |
| 1949 | | | | 17.9 | 16.7 | 1954 | .... | .... | .... | 14.1 | 15.2 |
| 1950 | | | | 18.0 | 15.8 | 1955 | .... | .... | .... | 16.2 | 15.0 |
| 1951 | | | | 17.1 | 15.5 | 1956 | .... | .... | .... | 15.11 | 15.7 |
| 1952 | | | | 18.4 | 15.3 | 1957 | .... | .... | .... | 16.9 | 16.1 |
| 1953 | | | | 17.2 | 15.5 | 1958 | .... | .... | .... | 17.8 | 16.4 |

Deaths

| MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | |
|--|--------|-------|-------|
| 84 | 82 | 166 | |
| Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | | | 11.25 |
| Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Deaths | | | 0.99 |
| Corrected Death Rate | | | 11.13 |

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE DEATH RATES FOR LAST DECADE

| ENG. AND | | | | | ENG. AND | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| TARVIN R.D. WALES | | | | | TARVIN R.D. WALES | | | | | | |
| 1949 | | | | 11.0 | 11.7 | 1954 | .... | .... | .... | 10.4 | 11.3 |
| 1950 | | | | 11.6 | 11.6 | 1955 | .... | .... | .... | 12.12 | 11.7 |
| 1951 | | | | 12.3 | 12.5 | 1956 | .... | .... | .... | 13.18 | 11.7 |
| 1952 | | | | 11.4 | 11.3 | 1957 | .... | .... | .... | 12.65 | 11.5 |
| 1953 | | | | 9.9 | 11.4 | 1958 | .... | .... | .... | 11.13 | 11.7 |

MATERNAL MORTALITY (excluding Abortion)

| | |
|---|-----|
| From Puerperal Sepsis | Nil |
| From other Puerperal or Maternal Causes | Nil |
| Natural increase in population (excess of births over deaths) | 82 |

TABLE OF POPULATION ESTIMATED BY R.G. AND NATURAL INCREASE FOR LAST DECADE (Excess of Births over Deaths)

| YEAR | | | ESTIMATED | | YEAR | | | ESTIMATED | |
|------|------|------|-----------|----------|------|------|------|-----------|----------|
| | | | POP. | NATURAL | | | | POP. | NATURAL |
| | | | R.G. | INCREASE | | | | R.G. | INCREASE |
| 1949 | .... | .... | 14,530 | 96 | 1954 | .... | .... | 14,750 | 26 |
| 1950 | .... | .... | 14,520 | 77 | 1955 | .... | .... | 14,740 | 25 |
| 1951 | .... | .... | 14,630 | 39 | 1956 | .... | .... | 14,730 | 12 |
| 1952 | .... | .... | 14,550 | 73 | 1957 | .... | .... | 14,710 | 47 |
| 1953 | .... | .... | 14,640 | 81 | 1958 | .... | .... | 14,760 | 82 |

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|-------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| | 1 | 1 | 2 |

Infant Mortality Rate, i.e., deaths of infants under 1 year
per 1,000 live births 8.06

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE INFANT MORTALITY RATES FOR LAST DECADE

| ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES | | | ENG. AND TARVIN R.D. WALES | | |
|-------------------------------|------|------|-------------------------------|-------|------|
| 1949 | 23.1 | 32 | 1954 | 15.5 | 25.5 |
| 1950 | 26.7 | 29.8 | 1955 | 40.4 | 24.9 |
| 1951 | 33.6 | 29.6 | 1956 | 33.65 | 23.8 |
| 1952 | 35.3 | 27.6 | 1957 | 17.02 | 23.0 |
| 1953 | 16.7 | 26.8 | 1958 | 8.06 | 22.5 |

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under FOUR WEEKS of age:—

| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|-------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| | 1 | 1 | 2 |

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births 8.06

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN SELECTED CAUSES

| | MALE | FEMALE |
|---|------|--------|
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | 2 | — |
| Other forms of tuberculosis | — | — |
| Cancer of lung | 3 | 1 |
| Cancer of all other sites | 9 | 13 |
| Intra-Cranial vascular lesions | 15 | 16 |
| Heart Disease | 35 | 24 |
| Other diseases of circulatory system | 2 | 3 |
| Influenza | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 3 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 3 |
| Other respiratory diseases | — | 1 |
| Nephritis | 1 | 2 |
| Prostate | 2 | — |
| Congenital malformations | — | 1 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Road traffic accidents | 2 | 1 |
| Other violent | 1 | 1 |
| All other causes | 9 | 13 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total all causes | 84 | 82 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Deaths from Cancer (all sites) numbered 26 ; in the previous year there were 32.

Deaths from Heart Disease numbered 59, compared with 69 in 1957.

Deaths from Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions were 31 ; there were 25 in 1957.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than tuberculosis) during the year 1958

| DISEASE | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED | CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL | DEATHS |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| | | | |
| Smallpox | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 13 | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — |
| Enteric and Paratyphoid | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 7 | — | — |
| Cerebro spinal meningitis | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | — | — | — |
| Encephalitis lethargica | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | — | — | — |
| Measles | 55 | — | — |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum | — | — | — |
| Poliomyelitis | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | 6 | — | — |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals | 81 | — | — |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

NUMBER OF CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED IN THE DISTRICT

| | | | |
|-----------|----|--------------|---|
| 1936 | 25 | 1943 | 6 |
| 1937 | 10 | 1944 | 4 |
| 1938 | 35 | 1945 | 5 |
| 1939 | 15 | 1946 | 2 |
| 1940 | 27 | 1947 | 1 |
| 1941 | 17 | 1948 | — |
| 1942 | 9 | 1949/58 | — |

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during the year 1958

| Age Period | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Under 5 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5—14 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 15—24 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25—44 | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 45—64 | 6 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Age unknown | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

The Council have powers under the above Act to arrange for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

I am glad to record again that there has been no need for me to represent compulsory removal for any of the cases investigated during the year.

Geriatric Services

Since the appointment, by the Regional Hospital Board at the beginning of 1958, of a Consultant Geriatric Physician to serve the Chester Hospital area, hospitals provision for the aged has shown some improvement; but accommodation in the area for this type of hospital case is still far from adequate, and more hospital beds should be provided in the neighbourhood for this purpose.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Details of piped water supplies in the various parishes of the District are as given in my previous reports.

Mr. Thomas Pritchard, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, has supplied me with the following information on new water mains and sewers installed during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Water Schemes completed during year

Malpas Trunk Main 6"—1,150 lin. yds.

Duddon Common 3"—950 lin. yds.

Tilston Road Edge 3" and 4"—890 lin. yds.

Schemes Proposed and in Progress

Bruen Stapleford and Hargrave—Water. Work proceeding and 4,298 lin. yds. completed out of a total of 10,815 lin. yds.

Tilston Road Edge—Water. Scheme prepared, submitted and completed.

The following miscellaneous water mains extensions, etc., have been executed:—

Crimes Lane—Renewal of main—543 lin. yds.

Larkton—Mains Extension—190 lin. yds.

Wigland and Wychough—Water. Scheme for the extension of mains in the above area has been prepared and submitted for approval, comprising the laying of 4,769 lin. yds. of 3" main and ancillary works. Approval not yet received.

Old Hall Street Housing Estate, Malpas. Scheme prepared for the relief of flooding in the above area involving the laying of new 9" and 12" foul and surface water drains. Scheme submitted to Ministry. Approval not yet received.

Duddon and Clotton Hoofield—Water. Extension of main proposed, scheme submitted and approval received. 1,333 lin. yds., 3" main.

Chester Road, Malpas—Water. Scheme prepared and submitted for the scraping of 967 lin. yds. of 3" and 4" water main.

Premises supplied with water

Domestic (+ 28) = 2,526

Trade (+ 44) = 912

3,438

SEWERAGE

Tarvin

A Local Public Enquiry is scheduled to take place early in 1959 when the Minister's representative examines the Council's Sewerage Scheme and reasons for the compulsory purchase of land.

Kelsall

The scheme for Kelsall is being held back until the Tarvin Scheme is completed.

REPORT

of the
Chief Public Health Inspector
for the Year ending December, 1958

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE TARVIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Lady and Gentlemen,

The following pages will show that, despite difficulties in proceeding with proposed new works, the Council has maintained the steady post-war progress in environmental sanitation.

There were a greater number of rodent control contracts following the winding up of the service previously run by the Agricultural Executive Committee; a heavier tonnage of refuse was collected and disposed of; there was a further increase in the number of private drainage works and also in the number of animals killed and inspected. In addition, housing repairs, closure of unfit dwellings, the supervision of all types of food premises and the abatement of nuisances formed a large part of the work of the Public Health Department.

While there were several complaints mainly from new residents regarding the refuse collection, it will be seen in the section under this heading that the Committee bear in mind Edmund Burke's comment that "it is an error to suppose that the loudest complainers for the public, to be the most anxious for its general welfare."

New slaughterhouse legislation during the year has placed a new responsibility on the Council regarding the future licensing of abattoirs in the District. In the near future detailed reports on these premises will be placed before your Public Health Committee.

One hundred per cent inspection of all carcasses intended for human consumption was continued throughout 1958. This involved regular out of hours inspection mainly at the Casualty Slaughterhouse, but is regarded as a priority duty in the public interest.

I am concerned about the growing habit of persons using any isolated roadside spaces in the rural district as a dumping ground for their rubbish. These people represent a small, wilful, irresponsible minority who recognize no duty to anyone but themselves and who come from far afield, usually under the cloak of darkness. Their sole objective is to unload their accumulations of junk somewhere away from their own home. As the offenders cannot be identified without a twenty-four hour vigil it is very difficult to take action

I am hopeful that 1959 will see a start on the Tarvin sewerage scheme, and this will open up the way for further improvements to existing dwellings there and the provision of new houses, both private and Council.

At the start of the year there was a change in technical staff, the first for many years, when Mr. J. K. Hughes was appointed Additional Public Health Inspector to the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Walpole.

I must acknowledge the industry and loyalty of the staff throughout the year, the "back room boys" who help to make this favourable Report possible.

I also wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and the Council for their confidence and support.

To Dr. W. J. Birchall, the Medical Officer of Health, and to the Clerk and Chief Officers of other Departments, I offer my thanks for their assistance in those delicate matters of administration which arise from time to time.

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE T. WOODS,

F.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

WATER

The regular sampling of water supplies both main and local was continued throughout the year. This enabled periodic checks to be made on the mains and copies of the results were supplied to the Water Engineer. In the case of local supplies advice was given where necessary to the occupier and cases that called for action were brought to the attention of the Works Committee.

Foulk Stapleford

My Report for 1957 contained details of the representations which had been made to the Ministry by various bodies to press for an extension of the water main to the village of Hargrave.

As will be seen from the Engineer's Report, work on the scheme was commenced early in the year.

A total of 157 water samples were taken during 1958, made up of 68 samples taken from local supplies and 89 from the mains.

These were analysed at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, and suitable action taken on unsatisfactory reports. As the extension of mains continued during 1958 several doubtful local supplies were abolished.

The Council can be proud of the real progress made since the war in the general provision of water mains throughout the District and now the Hargrave scheme is to become a reality there is still further cause for satisfaction.

HOUSING

The steady improvement in housing conditions in the District continued during the year assisted by Council building at Waverton, private building generally, improvements by owner/occupiers done mainly without grant aid and a great deal of repair work carried out by owners following informal action by your Public Health Inspectors. I am glad to report that again it has been unnecessary to resort to the Council's statutory powers to compel works to be undertaken. All these have been carried out on informal request.

The priorities in housing for 1958 were concerned with slum clearance and provision for the elderly. Despite a large number of applications from aged persons for a Council bungalow, a great many other old people in this District in sub-standard accommodation prefer to continue to occupy their old cottages where they are reasonably comfortable and independent, in preference to moving to a Council bungalow where, although they may have all modern facilities there are no memories and old associations that their cottage provides. This is a real human problem and needs sympathetic consideration for the old people's wishes if only for the reason that such old-fashioned independence is rare and exceptional in this modern age.

It is still a widespread illusion with some tenants that a house can be condemned because it has no bathroom, hot water system and water-closet. This office receives many requests for pressure against the landlord to enforce provision of these amenities. No powers for such action exist at present.

Sanitarians deplore that the installation of a hot water system, bath, water-closet, etc., is far behind the installation of, for example, a television. But while a tenant may be willing to pledge his credit for two or three years to have the use of television which he can take with him when he leaves; he is certainly not going into debt to provide sanitary facilities which would be left behind for the benefit of his successors and landlord. It is obvious therefore that any major programme of conversions must come through owners of properties, who in turn want an economic rent to repay their expenditure. Improvement grants and the Rent Act are not the complete answer to this, owing to the cost of complying with the standard required, for all classes of houses, very old or not so old.

Certificates of Disrepair

Four applications on Form I were received by the Council during the year and in two of these cases the landlords submitted undertakings to carry out repairs.

Two certificates of disrepair were granted to the other applicants in respect of some, but not all of the defects listed.

There has been little use made by tenants in this District of the procedure provided in the Rent Act to get improvements

done. It does appear that many families in older houses even though in receipt of a substantial joint weekly income are still willing to put up with all sorts of inconvenience as long as they can retain a low uneconomic rent.

Overcrowding

While an accurate figure for the number of houses or families overcrowded in the District cannot be given without a full new survey, it is known from the housing applications investigated by the Department in 1958, that the overcrowding of 23 families comprising 85 persons was relieved by the provision of a Council house.

It is the custom of the Housing Committee when considering applications from tenants of Council houses to take in lodgers, to ignore the permitted number of a house which includes living rooms and parlours, and consider only the permitted number of the bedrooms as to whether a house can accommodate lodgers or not.

Two serious cases of overcrowding came to light near the end of the year. Two families each consisting of seven persons over ten of mixed sexes were occupying old two bedroomed cottages. The Housing Committee took immediate action to make Closing Orders on these sub-standard and overcrowded dwellings. The tenants were offered alternative accommodation by the Council.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of houses rendered fit by informal action | 53 |
| Number of houses rendered fit after statutory action | 4 |
| Number of Demolition Orders made | 7 |
| Number of Closing Orders made | 6 |
| Number on which undertakings accepted not to re-let unfit premises but convert for farm stock | Nil |
| Number on which undertakings to make house fit offered and accepted | 1 |
| Number on which undertakings were cancelled after being made fit | 3 |
| Number on which Demolition Orders were revoked or Closing Orders determined after being made fit | 2 |

Summary of Housing Action taken during Post-War Period

| | 1946/57 | 1958 | TOTAL |
|--|---------|------|-------|
| Houses on which Demolition Orders have been made | 72 | 7 | 79 |
| Houses on which Closing Orders have been made | 22 | 6 | 28 |
| Unfit houses on which undertakings to make them fit have been accepted | 22 | 1 | 23 |

| | | | |
|---|----|---|----|
| Unfit houses on which undertakings have been accepted to convert to use for farm stock or store. (Not to permit human habitation) | 10 | — | 10 |
|---|----|---|----|

Council House Tenancies

The records of housing applications and tenancies are kept by the Public Health Department, who supply full reports on the housing need of each applicant, after a visit to the house by one of your Public Health Inspectors.

Eighty-seven new applications were received in 1958 and at the close of the year the Register of Applications totalled 229, an increase of 22 on December, 1957.

Six new Council houses at Waverton were occupied and in addition 24 casual vacant tenancies became available.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total number of Council houses tenanted at 31st Dec- ember, 1958 | 611 |
|--|-----|

| | |
|---|-----|
| Total number of above with tenants in agriculture ... | 203 |
|---|-----|

POST-WAR HOUSE BUILDING

| | 1946/58 | | 1946/58 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| Ashton | 26 | Malpas | 94 |
| Beeston | 10 | Oscroft | 8 |
| Nomansheath (Bickley) .. | 8 | Shocklach | 4 |
| Broxton | 4 | Tarvin | 32 |
| Clutton | 14 | Tattenhall (Edgecroft) .. | 8 |
| Coddington | 4 | Tattenhall | 66 |
| Duddon | 27 | Tilston | 34 |
| Edge | 8 | Tiverton | 12 |
| Farndon | 60 | Waverton | 10 |
| Gatesheath | 8 | | |
| Huxley | 4 | | |
| Kelsall | 44 | | |
| | | Total | 485 |

Housing of Old People

The Council's provision for the aging population was reflected in the building programme formulated by the Housing Committee at the end of 1958. For the first time this consisted mainly of accommodation for the elderly, in the form of single bedroom flats.

The Council have already made some provision by the erection of two bedroom bungalows on their housing sites at Malpas (20 bungalows), Tattenhall (8 bungalows), Beeston (2 bungalows), Tilston (4 bungalows) and Ashton (4 bungalows). The letting of these has so far been restricted to elderly people.

It is now proposed to carry out a pilot programme which provides for the erection of old people's flats at Malpas, Tattenhall

and Waverton. If these are successful, the future building of the Council should provide for further such accommodation so that by means of transfers family houses which are under occupied will be released for family use.

It was thought in the early days of bungalow building, that there would be fairly regular vacant tenancies becoming available as all were elderly tenants.

I am happy to report that the health of these old people has benefited and seems to be generally excellent. Vacancies are very few and far between.

It is reported that King Charles apologised for being "an unconscionable time a-dying." This unsatisfied demand certainly seems to be still a further argument in favour of more old people's dwellings being constructed.

Housing Acts, 1949/57—Improvement Grants

There were 13 applications outstanding at the end of 1957 and of these eleven were not proceeded with. The remaining two were approved for grants amounting to a total of £634 in respect of improvements costing an estimated £1,268. Repairs in addition were estimated at £60.

Twenty-three further applications were received and preliminary surveys made during 1958. (There were twenty-seven in the previous year). Three of these were not eligible as the premises involved were used for business purposes.

A further nine were not proceeded with after the owners had received details of the standard of works required and the list of repairs to be done as a condition of grant.

Further details of nine applications were still awaited at the end of the year.

Grants were approved on two applications to a total of £681 for improvements estimated to cost £1,447 and involving repairs costing an additional £365.

During 1958, therefore, a total of £1,315 was granted in respect of four dwellings for improvements estimated to cost £2,715. In addition repairs estimated to cost £425 were involved. All of these dwellings were occupied by rent paying tenants. One of these grants was for the maximum of £400.

Summary of Improvement Grants

For the five years 1949 to 1953 grants approved totalled £1,392 for improvements costing £2,784 to five tenanted dwellings involving repairs estimated at £250.

For the five years 1954 (when the Act was amended) to 1958, one hundred and sixty applications were investigated and a total of £15,195 approved in grants for work estimated at £32,989 and repairs at £5,950 in respect of fifty-six dwellings. In thirteen of these the maximum grant of £400 was made. Forty-four dwellings were occupied by tenants and twelve by owners.

DRAINAGE

114 drainage plans were deposited during 1958 for examination and approval. These involved several visits to the site by your Inspectors to supervise and test the work.

In addition the steady conversion of pail closets and connections to new village sewerage schemes continued.

Drainage in combination is advocated wherever possible in order to save unnecessary expense and the drainage plans are prepared for the owners by the Department as a further encouragement to modernise drainage without undue formality.

My previous reports referred to the trouble repeatedly experienced at Kelsall and Tarvin owing to the difficulties of adequate disposal of foul drainage. Temporary expedients have had to be employed from time to time to minimise the worst of the nuisances where effluents have burst through the sewage sick land to cause offence. As I have previously emphasised only the provision of sewers in these two villages can put right this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

At the time of the preparation of this Report a date had been fixed for an inquiry into the Tarvin Sewerage Scheme and it is hoped that the commencement of work will not be long delayed.

The major part of new building at Kelsall and Tarvin has to be restricted because of the lack of means of disposal of the sewage effluents and similar conditions are beginning to arise elsewhere such as, for example, at Churton.

Rivers and Streams

The Tarvin Rural District is in the areas of the River Dee and Clwyd Catchment Board and the Cheshire Rivers Board.

Co-operation is maintained between your Public Health Officers and the Board's officials.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The severe weather in the early part of the year with deep snow and icing over a period of three months coupled with sickness among the men completely dislocated the collections. From December, 1957, to March, 1958, there was never a whole team available and general maintenance work on tips, etc., had to be left. The collections from the country areas were cut to a minimum. This prolonged period of extreme weather brought to a head the many growing problems of collection. It was obvious that the labour force, static since 1946, must be increased to cope with the continually growing number of houses to be serviced, before another winter was faced.

It is only fair to pay tribute to the efforts of the collectors and their foreman. He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the District and a cheerfulness in adverse conditions which helps in the efficient control of this service.

At the close of the year the Committee decided that an extra man should be engaged.

Disposal

Disposal is by controlled tipping and much land has already been reclaimed for agricultural use. The Council are fortunate in having many such sites in the District.

Barton tip is now closed and awaiting a top dressing to bring back into use this previously disused quarry. Churton Quarry is now in use.

The larger tips in the District are situated at Waverton, Iddinshall, Malpas, Churton and Bickley. There are also small tips at Burwardsley, Mouldsworth and Tiverton. New tips at Edge, Tilston and Gatesheath were commenced this year in order to cut down length of haul from villages.

To explain to the ratepayers the difficulties of trying to meet the unreasonable demands of many new residents who had been used to a city service of a twice weekly or even daily collection, the Public Health Committee decided to issue a circular to all premises on the rounds. This intimated among other things—

“Your rates will go up unless residents co-operate more in regard to the Refuse Collection Service.

“The Tarvin Rural District extends to nearly 100 square miles and cannot have a similar frequent collection as is usual in towns because of the difference in the area to be serviced and the smaller financial resources of a rural council.

“A large part of the increase in the volume of refuse now put out for collection could be burned by the householder. The large bulk of dirty waste paper and cartons in the bins fills the wagons more quickly and cuts short the number of houses which can be serviced with one load. It means more journeys for emptying and adds to the risk of tip fires.

“The cost of extending the service to cope with increasing demands has been considered by the Council and because of the heavy rise in rates needed to meet this they have decided instead to restrict collections and give priority collection to one dustbin per dwelling in the villages. The country areas will be serviced as frequently as the availability of labour and wagons permit, but as public holidays, breakdowns and illness of workmen occur, no regular collection can be guaranteed for country areas.

“To avoid an increase in costs and a rise in rates you are earnestly requested to co-operate by burning cartons, paper, etc., which helps to cleanse the bin and put wet garbage and garden refuse on your compost heap. If you have an extra bin use it for waste paper and cardboard to be burnt periodically.

“Use your dustbin for dry ashes, tins, bottles, etc., and keep it covered with the lid. The collectors have instructions not to pick up trade or garden refuse, or bins containing wet filth.

“You must appreciate that the Council wish to continue to give a service especially to residents who have no alternative dis-

posal, but in the interests of the ratepayers as a whole they cannot try to give a town service and permit costs to rise out of all reason."

Following distribution of this circular there was a very marked decrease in the amount of combustible refuse put out, which has assisted considerably. There are, of course, still the select few who refuse co-operation of any sort ; even for their own benefit.

Salvage

The position regarding waste paper salvage degenerated during the year and it is now quite a problem to dispose of the collections of waste paper. This is because the paper put out by the public consists solely of periodicals and as the number of these has been increasing since the war, the market has become glutted with this type of waste. The paper board mills are now therefore in a position to pick and choose as to what kind of waste paper they will accept.

Fortunately this Council has never made arrangements for special paper salvage since 1950 but has restricted this to what can be collected in conjunction with the normal refuse collection. While therefore some loss in revenue is to be regretted it will not be felt as badly as it might have been if special labour and vehicles for the collection of such had been in operation as is the custom with many other Councils.

| | 1958/59 | | | PREVIOUS YEAR | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----|----|-----------------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Waste Paper | 204 | 11 | 3 | 230 | 12 | 6 |
| Scrap Metal | — | — | — | 12 | 19 | 2 |
| Rags and Sacking | 8 | 12 | 9 | — | — | — |
| Rubber | 10 | 0 | | — | — | — |
| | <hr/> £213 14 0 | | | <hr/> £243 11 8 | | |

The nett cost of the Refuse and Salvage Collection Service for the year ending 31st March, 1959, was £6,546 12s. 11d.

Camping Sites

No licences under the Public Health Act, 1936, have been issued by the Council during the year in relation to sites or individual moveable dwellings.

Control under the Town and Country Planning Act is in operation with respect to certain caravans brought into the District for an extended period.

There is one site for five caravans approved under planning control for summer occupation only.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The year has been a very busy one for the Department's officers with housing repairs, and a great deal has been done in the District in relation to improvements in sanitation.

Informal requests and persuasion are used before cases are reported to Committee for official statutory action. This explains

the low number of formal notices served, as only informal action is usually necessary.

The following list gives an indication of part of your Inspectors' activities during 1958 where such are not dealt with elsewhere in this Report:—

Informal notices served re—

| | |
|--|-----|
| Housing defects | 142 |
| Unsatisfactory water supply | 2 |
| Defective drainage | 54 |
| Dirty conditions | 2 |
| Insanitary closets | 8 |
| Foul ditches | 22 |
| Leaking gutters and down spouts | 6 |
| Offensive accumulations | 25 |
| Food and Drugs Act, 1955 | 14 |
| Rat infestations | 25 |
| Defects in factories | 2 |
| Petroleum spirit stores | 1 |
| Food premises | 30 |
| Number of written complaints received at this office | 223 |

In addition many complaints are made verbally to the Inspectors during their District work or by visits or by telephone to the Inspectors' private houses.

Shops

The Council is responsible for the enforcement of the Shops Act, 1950, in respect to the ventilation, lighting, temperature and sanitary accommodation of shops in the District where labour is employed.

Informal action was taken in a few cases regarding sanitary accommodation but no statutory action was necessary during 1958.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

Sixty factories are on the register. These include 13 non-power and 47 power. Following inspection a notice to remedy defects was served on two occupiers. These were complied with without further action. Other cases found were dealt with by verbal caution.

Factories Act, 1938 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of inspections | Formal Notices served |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities | 13 | 17 | 2 |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 47 | 42 | — |
| Totals | 60 | 59 | 2 |

Outworkers

There were no outworkers on the register during 1958.

Smoke Abatement

Following complaint, observations on commercial chimneys were carried out from time to time. Informal action was taken in respect of one factory where defective firing and overloading of the boiler caused complaint.

During the year the Council have taken no action under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

The brickworks is under the supervision of the Alkali Inspectorate.

ERADICATION OF INSECT VERMIN

Four dwellings were treated against cockroaches during the year.

During the summer complaints were received of bugs in an old terraced cottage in Farndon.

Investigation showed that these were coming through from the adjoining cottage where the infestation was rather severe. Apart from the harbourage offered by the cracked wall-plaster, bugs were clustered on the ironwork of the bedsteads. Immediate action was taken to cleanse the beds, etc., and the walls were treated at regular intervals with Neocid. This spray was also used in the premises of the complainant and gradually the infestation was controlled.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The Council are the statutory body with responsibilities for the inspection of premises, and powers to deal with the destruction of rats and mice found on all properties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During 1958 notice was given by the Minister that the State Service of rat destruction provided for some years by the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee was to be wound up. The Council were requested to make arrangements to take over the disinfestation service for farms as their contracts with the C.A.E.C. expired.

Various private persons and bodies propose to provide a pest service for farmers which will include disinfestation against rats and mice. As efficient rodent control in the District is to be encouraged by every means, the Department welcomes such private operators who prove to give a reliable and satisfactory service.

The Council's disinfestation service is kept as self-supporting as possible. Its very nature however creates the position that the more successfully the Council clear premises of rat infestation, the less is the demand for renewed contracts from satisfied users, until

re-infestation occurs. A small nominal charge is made for treating dwelling-houses.

During the year 33 new contracts were negotiated and 21 others were renewed on an annual basis by satisfied users.

The Council's various tips and sewerage works were regularly inspected and treated during the year.

The annual 10% test-baiting of the sewers was carried out on the Malpas, Tilston, Nomansheath, Tattenhall, Farndon, Kelsall, Ashton and Waverton systems with negative results in all cases. This was most satisfactory.

On the Farndon system, however, five manholes out of thirteen were found to have "takes," which called for treatment. After suitable action this system also was reported cleared.

The Ministry's Inspector visits the Council's tips and sewerage works from time to time to check on the control exercised by the Council.

The following is an extract from the annual return made to the Ministry:—

| | Local Authority Property (not sewers) | Dwellings including C. Houses | Non-Agri- cultural Business Premises | Agri- cultural Premises | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------|
| No. of Inspections made | 671 | 219 | 353 | 817 | 2060 |
| No. of Treatments carried out | 52 | 13 | 34 | 80 | 179 |
| No. of Sewer Manholes Tested | 88 | — | — | — | — |

Knackers Yard

Following the completion of the reconstruction and improvements at the Malpas Knackers Yard your Public Health Committee issued a full annual licence to include the special permission to slaughter horses.

The Management are aware of the necessity to avoid any nuisance as far as possible and with the new buildings and plant, precautions are taken against such an occurrence.

Special arrangement of the lairage and slaughter hall have been made to comply with the Regulations. This is the only premises in the District which is licensed for the slaughter of horses.

During the year one horse was slaughtered and nine brought in as carcases.

Schools

Modern sanitation of rural schools has belatedly taken its place as an item of importance in the daily press and although there are still eight of the twenty-four schools in this District still with the conservancy system there are signs that the pressure

for water closets at all rural schools is bearing fruit. It has been reported that infants were afraid to use pail closets at school and one headmaster averred that he had to send infants home when they wanted to go to the lavatory.

My personal experience confirms this deplorable state of affairs and applies particularly where a child has the use of modern facilities at his or her own home but attends a school where primitive pail closets are provided.

During the year the school closets at Ashton were converted to water carriage and connected to the Council's sewer; and a proposal to convert the closets at Tilstone Fearnall School in the near future is on paper.

The inspection of school canteens as a combined operation between the County Public Health Department and this office will, it is hoped, be carried out during 1959.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Eighty-four premises in the District where food is prepared, offered or exposed for sale have been frequently visited during the year and action taken to have facilities installed to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Dairy farms are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

This work is of great importance to ensure that properly clean conditions and methods are observed in the back rooms where food is prepared for sale to the public.

The premises known to the Department as being engaged in the handling, preparation or the sale of food include:—

| | |
|--|----|
| Ice Cream retailers | 53 |
| Cafes (no cooked meals) | 11 |
| Restaurants (cooked meals) | 11 |
| Licensed premises | 41 |
| Abattoirs | 9 |
| Butchers' shops | 16 |
| Other miscellaneous (grocers, confectioners, etc.) | 40 |
| Fried fish shops | 4 |
| Bakeries | 16 |

Verbal cautions were given in cases where the condition of the premises had been allowed to deteriorate. No statutory action was necessary however.

Milk

Under the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1955, the Tarvin Rural District is a specified area, making compulsory the use of special designations for all retail sales of milk.

Milk obtained by farmworkers from their employers is exempted.

The supervision of milk production is in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, but random

samples of milk are taken by the County Council for biological examination.

Milk distributors and Dairies are registered and Dealers' and Supplementary Licences are still issued by the District Council.

| | |
|--|----|
| No. of Registered Dairies (not Dairy Farms) | 4 |
| No. of Registered Milk Distributors | 20 |
| No. of Dealers' Licences issued | 7 |
| No. of Supplementary Licences issued | 7 |

Ice Cream

Fifty-three premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, almost all of these are limited to the pre-wrapped product which is less likely to be contaminated than the loose article.

There are a few travelling retailers in the District. Frequent samples are taken by your Public Health Officers for analysis at the Laboratory, and a check is made on the standard of hygiene and cleanliness of the vehicles of retailers.

| | |
|--|----|
| No. of samples analysed | 22 |
| No. of samples resulting in Grade 1 | 22 |
| No. of samples resulting in Grade 2 | — |
| No. of samples resulting in Grade 3 | — |
| No. of samples resulting in Grade 4 | — |

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the District during the year.

Disease of Animals Acts

| | |
|---|-----|
| Notifications of suspected Anthrax during 1958 | 82 |
| Notifications confirmed as Anthrax | Nil |

Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection

Meat inspection is a problem for most local authorities, with the necessity for examination at all sorts of hours to suit the trade. There has to be regular out of hours inspection in order to maintain the 100% examination of all carcasses slaughtered for human consumption in the District.

Meat Marking is in operation and routine inspection is carried out in conformity with the Ministry Memorandum 3 on Meat Inspection.

This has no legal backing yet and a heavy responsibility rests on the Inspector to see that the owner of the meat is not penalised by unnecessary loss, and on the other hand that the public are not exposed to the risk of consumption of infected meat. Your Inspectors are well qualified and experienced and the slaughtermen accept their judgments. There was no instance where it became necessary to use powers to seize unsound meat.

At the close of the year there were nine licensed slaughter-houses in the District. None of these are licensed for the slaughter of horses.

A new Slaughter Houses Act came into operation during the year. Since de-control in 1954 we have had a spate of legislation on slaughtering.

It has been categorically stated that the Minister does not intend the new Act to be used to close small slaughterhouses. The object being only to raise standards; and providing the occupier meets with the requirements of the new Regulations there is nothing to prevent his licence being renewed, whether it be for a small family butcher's slaughterhouse dealing with one or two beasts and a few lambs and pigs per week, or whether it is a large factory abattoir killing hundreds per day.

There are quite a number of residents who have already expressed to me their uneasiness at the prospect of their local butcher who up to now has bought and properly rested quality animals before killing and carefully dressing for his own trade, being forced to buy in the market the factory killed carcase.

As I see it the readiness of occupiers to attain the standard to be enforced by the Council in future, will be the measure of how many slaughterhouses will continue to be licensed.

The marked activity under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950, has been continued at the Huxley Slaughterhouse, where facilities, extensions and improvements have been carried out already to the standard of the new Regulations. A stunning pen has also been installed here to comply with the Prevention of Cruelty Regulations.

Details of animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Council's area during the year, with particulars of each class of animal found to be unfit for human consumption are shown in the following table in the form suggested by the Ministry of Health.

| Year 1958 | Cattle | | Sheep and | | Pigs | Horses | Total |
|--|--------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|----------|
| | exCows | Cows | Calves | Lambs | | | |
| Numbers killed | 798 | 1,433 | 197 | 2,954 | 6,354 | — | 11,736 |
| Numbers inspected | | 798 | 1,433 | 197 | 2,954 | 6,354 | — 11,736 |
| All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | | 5 | 58 | 32 | 39 | 69 | — 203 |
| Part carcasses condemned | | 116 | 549 | 10 | 154 | 1,704 | — 2,533 |
| Percentage affected | | 15.16 | 42.36 | 21.32 | 6.53 | 27.90 | — 23.31 |

Tuberculosis only

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|------|-------|------|---|------|---|------|
| Whole carcasses | | | | | | | | |
| condemned | .... | 1 | 11 | — | — | 4 | — | 16 |
| Part carcasses | | | | | | | | |
| condemned | .... | 30 | 344 | 1 | — | 59 | — | 434 |
| Percentage | | | | | | | | |
| affected | .... | 3.88 | 24.76 | 0.50 | — | 0.99 | — | 3.83 |

Cysticercosis

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|
| Part carcasses | | | | | | | |
| condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Refrigeration treatment | 6 | 11 | — | — | — | — | 17 |
| Whole carcasses condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Reasons for Condemnation of Whole Carcasses

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| General tuberculosis | 16 | General oedema | 39 |
| Moribund | 18 | Septic metritis | 2 |
| Septicaemia | 8 | Acute febrility | 22 |
| Pathological emaciation | 54 | Umbilical pyaemia | 4 |
| Immaturity | 7 | Multiple abscesses | 1 |
| General bruising | 3 | Septic pericarditis | 1 |
| Hydraemia | 6 | Gangrenous pneumonia | 7 |
| Pyaemia | 6 | Icteric | 3 |
| Pyco-nephritis | 1 | Septic peritonitis | 7 |
| Other diseases | 9 | | |

During the year a total of 261 animals were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order, 1950.

Localised tuberculosis was found in 219 of these and no tubercular lesions were visible on post mortem examination in 42.

Six cows in addition were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The total weight of carcase meat and offals condemned by your Food Inspectors as unfit for human consumption was 25 tons 0 cwts. 2 qrs. 8 lbs.

Disposal of Condemned Meat

Condemned meat is collected from the slaughterhouses by contractors for treatment and disposal for purposes other than human consumption.

Dealers object to having condemned meat coloured, as prejudicing the sale for animal feeding. New legislation should require the compulsory staining of condemned meat at the slaughterhouses, and sterilising treatment by licensed dealers before re-sale as dog meat.

It has long been my opinion that such a requirement is necessary for the protection of the public.

Inspection of other Foods

The weight of canned meat and other foods at local shops and depots found to be unfit for human consumption was 1qr. 16 lbs.

Cysticercus Bovis

Seventeen cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered during the year. There were 26 in 1957.

Details were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in accordance with Circular M.F. 5/48.

The carcasses were sent for refrigeration for 21 days as recommended by the Ministry.

Food Adulteration

The following report of work under the adulteration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, has been supplied by Mr. Howard Hughes, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Cheshire County Council, in relation to the year ending 31st December, 1958.

| Nature of Sample | Number obtained | Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Baking Powder | 1 | — |
| Butter | 1 | — |
| Cheshire Cheese | 1 | — |
| Coffee and Chickory Essence | 1 | — |
| Fish Paste—BLOATER | 1 | — |
| Flour—Self Raising | 1 | — |
| Gin | 1 | — |
| Jam—Raspberry | 1 | — |
| Jellies—Table Rasp. | 1 | — |
| Margarine | 1 | — |
| Meat Paste—Chicken | 1 | — |
| Milk | 33 | 4 |
| Milk—Condensed | | |
| Special Full Cream | 1 | — |
| Mustard | 1 | — |
| Parrish's Chemical Food | 1 | — |
| Rum | 1 | — |
| Salad Cream | 1 | — |
| Shredded Beef Suet | 1 | — |
| | <hr/> 50 | <hr/> 4 |

Particulars of Samples not up to Standard

| No. | Sample | Result of Analysis | Remarks |
|-----|--------|--|-------------------------|
| 1. | Milk | Abnormal but genuine milk deficient in solids not fat to the extent of 1.1 per cent. | Wholesale— no action |
| 2. | Milk | Abnormal but genuine milk deficient in solids not fat to the extent of 2.3 per cent | Wholesale— no action |
| 3. | Milk | Abnormal but genuine milk deficient in solids not fat to the extent of 4.7 per cent | Wholesale— no action |
| 4. | Milk | Sub-standard but genuine milk deficient in solids not fat to the extent of 3.5 per cent | Wholesale— no action |

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928/36

Petroleum Stores

The Council is responsible for conditions under which petroleum spirit or mixtures are stored in the District. Co-operation is maintained with the County Fire Brigade, who periodically inspect stores of inflammable materials under the Fire Services Act, 1948. The Council enforce the provisions of the Petroleum Act but no formal notices were served during the year.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of licensed stores on the register at Dec., 1957 | 103 |
| Number of licensed stores discontinued at Jan., 1958 | — |
| Number of existing licences to store renewed in 1958 | 103 |
| Number of new stores inspected and licensed | — |
| Number of transfers of licences | 4 |
| Total number of licensed stores on register at Dec., 1958 | 103 |
| Number of retailers of petroleum spirit | 27 |

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50 (Burial of the Dead)

No action was called for during 1958 under the above Section of the Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

The licensing of any premises including a stall or market barrow, where pet animals are sold is a duty of this Council.

No licences under the Act have been granted during the year.

Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951

No applications for registration under the Act were received during the year.

There are certain upholsterers in the District who repair soft furnishings, but at present they are excluded from the requirements to register.

Local Legislation

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3 (adopted 12th August, 1890).

Building Bye-Laws (adopted 21st November, 1953).

The Cheshire County Council Act, 1953. Certain sections of this Act are in operation automatically in all districts of the County.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

South-West Cheshire Divisional Health
Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

1958

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ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH SERVICES OF SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE DIVISION FOR THE YEAR 1958

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the work of the Divisional Health Committee for the year 1958.

The Committee has held six meetings during the year, the average attendance being 14 members out of a total of 33.

The Division includes the Borough of Ellesmere Port and the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin. The total population at 1st April, according to the Registrar General's latest figures (mid 1957) is 80,030, and the area is 115,414 acres.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination again occupied much of the time of the staff. In the autumn the Government extended the scheme so as to include a third inoculation to complete the individual vaccination and also extended the age group to all young adults between the ages of 15 and 25.

Vaccination figures against smallpox show a sharp rise, especially in the Ellesmere Port area. This started in the spring when two cases of smallpox occurred in the neighbouring Borough of Bebington. Apart from considerable public alarm locally a great number of residents of Ellesmere Port who worked in or had visited Bebington were indirect contacts. There was much activity by members of the health staff in tracing suspected contacts and arranging for extra Vaccination Sessions.

In the autumn the Divisional Health Committee were actively associated with the Government publicity drive in relation to Accidents in the Home. The month of November was devoted to intense propaganda to make the public fully aware of the accident dangers that lurk in the home and especially the risks from burns and scalds.

Increased attention was focussed during the year on the various services available for handicapped persons. These include not only the aged and infirm but also younger persons disabled either physically or mentally. Already extensive services, apart from those provided for the Blind and Deaf, are available from County Council resources. These include Home Nursing, Domestic Help, Loan of Nursing equipment, Foul Laundry collection, Occupation Centres, etc. There are also various forms of aid operated by such organisations as the W.V.S., e.g., Meals on Wheels.

In other directions, the Ambulance Service showed increased activity with greater number of patients carried and increased mileage, whilst there was greater demand also for domestic helps. There was a reduction in the sales of Ministry of Health Welfare Foods.

The clerical staff had another difficult year in trying to keep abreast with the widening scope of the services operated by the Division. The administrative arrangements were, however, successfully maintained with the help of a temporary additional clerk.

There was a marked reduction in the number of Measles and Whooping Cough cases notified, in comparison with the previous year. Other Infectious Diseases showed very little variation either way.

I would like once again to express my appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the various Voluntary Helpers at Clinics and Welfare Food Centres throughout the Division.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SOUTH-WEST CHESHIRE DIVISIONAL HEALTH
COMMITTEE

Report for Year ended 31st December, 1958

N.H.S. Act, 1946 (Sec. 22)—Care of Mothers and Young Children

| A—Mothers' Clinics: | NEW | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| | CASES | ATTENDANCES |
| Ante-Natal | 307 | 2245 |
| Post-Natal | 117 | 141 |
| Dental: | | |
| Pre-Natal | — | — |
| Nursing Mothers | — | — |
| Dentures Supplied | — | — |
| | | |
| B—Young Children's Clinics: | NEW | TOTAL |
| | CASES | ATTENDANCES |
| (1) Infant Welfare— | | |
| To 1 year | 943 | 9380 |
| 1—2 years | — | 1835 |
| 2—5 years | — | 1700 |
| (2) Specialist— | | |
| Ophthalmic | 27 | 57 |
| Dental Treatment (under 5) | 119 | 145 |
| E.N.T. (under 5) | 17 | 20 |

(3) Day Nurseries—

| | DAILY AVERAGE NO. | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | ATTEND- ING | TOTAL ATTENDANCES |
| Aged 0—2 years | 16 | 3991 |
| 2—5 years | 28 | 6816 |

Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are given hereunder:—

Eye Clinics—

| | NEW CASES | TOTAL ATTENDANCES |
|---|--------------|----------------------|
| Hoole | 4 | 5 |
| Ellesmere Port | 23 | 52 |
| Totals | 27 | 57 |
| Number of children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed | | |
| Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment | | |

Welfare Centres—

| | NEW CASES | TOTAL ATTENDANCES | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|------|------|
| | 0-1 | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-5 |
| Barrow | 10 | 119 | 72 | 130 |
| Christleton | 58 | 415 | 74 | 99 |
| Ellesmere Port | 323 | 2990 | 315 | 241 |
| Farndon | 14 | 172 | 85 | 140 |
| Huntington | 33 | 203 | 115 | 105 |
| Ince | 14 | 120 | 30 | 36 |
| Kelsall | 37 | 439 | 250 | 140 |
| Little Sutton | 167 | 1923 | 233 | 205 |
| Malpas | 26 | 226 | 80 | 99 |
| Overpool | 74 | 676 | 22 | 8 |
| Saughall | 45 | 436 | 98 | 126 |
| Tarvin | 21 | 306 | 132 | 134 |
| Tattenhall | 25 | 219 | 95 | 40 |
| Upton | 96 | 1136 | 234 | 197 |
| | 943 | 9380 | 1835 | 1700 |

WELFARE CENTRES

Ellesmere Port—A new refrigerator costing £60. 2s. 1d. was purchased for the storage of Poliomyelitis Vaccine, and a re-conditioned typewriter was purchased at a cost of £16.

Malpas—Two scales costing £9. 18s. 3d. were purchased. This Clinic was transferred from the Parish Hall to the Victoria Jubilee Hall in April, and the Clinics are now held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday afternoon in each month.

Kelsall—The rental for the hire of the Hall was increased from 17/6d. to £1. per Clinic, as from the 1st October.

Ince—Owing to reduced attendances at this Clinic it was decided to reduce the Clinic sessions to once per month. An unlawful entry to the Parish Hall, Ince, and the loss of Medical Equipment to the value of 16/6d. was reported.

Upton—A cupboard for the storage of Welfare Foods was purchased from Wrenbury Hall Industries at a cost of £19. 12s. 6d.

Great Boughton—It was reported that persons unknown had been dumping rubbish on the site of the proposed Clinic at Great Boughton, and a notice prohibiting the dumping of rubbish was erected.

WELFARE FOODS (MINISTRY)

The distribution of Welfare Foods continued satisfactorily, largely owing to the splendid co-operation of the voluntary persons and members of the W.V.S., who have been most helpful.

The distribution and storage of Welfare Foods at S. A. Salt & Co's. premises, Malpas, terminated on the 31st March, and was transferred to the Welfare Centre, the Jubilee Hall, Malpas.

The Distribution Point at Threapwood closed at the end of November.

The following is a summary of the number of articles issued during the year:—

| NATIONAL | COD | | |
|------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| DRIED MILK | LIVER OIL | A/D TABLETS | ORANGE JUICE |
| 20,858 | 4,153 | 2,310 | 23,894 |

The above figures show a marked decrease in the issues of National Dried Milk and Orange Juice, 26,459 tins of National Dried Milk and 36,732 bottles of Orange Juice were issued last year.

Day Nursery, Ellesmere Port

Attendances during the year were much the same as for the previous year, maintaining an average of 44 per day. The Nursery is classified as a 50 place Day Nursery. During the March quarter the attendances were again low, only maintaining an average of 38 per day, the reason for absences being bronchitis, colds, tonsillitis, and the lack of seasonal employment for the mothers. The June quarter showed a great improvement in attendances, averaging 51 per day. This good attendance was maintained through July and August, but dropped to 35—40 per day during September owing to measles and gastro enteritis. 13 children had measles, 7 children had gastro enteritis. Attendances again improved during October and November, averaging 48 per day, but during December dropped to 35 per day, absences being owing to coughs, colds and other respiratory ailments.

Apart from the outbreaks of measles and gastro enteritis in September, the general health of the children has been quite good.

The Staff do not seem to have fared as well as the children, for more or less throughout the year, one member or another of the Staff has been absent owing to sickness. 11 members of the Staff have had absences owing to sickness during the year.

The annual Sale of Work was again organised by the Matron and the Staff, and was opened by the Mayor of Ellesmere Port. The proceeds of the Sale of Work helped to provide additional toys, and enabled the Matron to hold a successful and most enjoyable Christmas Party for the children. Mr. Maxwell, the handyman, kindly undertook the duties of Father Christmas at the children's party, much to the enjoyment of the children, and Mr. Maxwell. Each child received a present from Father Christmas.

The Day Nursery was closed for the annual fortnight's holiday, 28th July to 9th August.

At the close of the year there were 58 children on the register, of whom 21 were priority cases. There were 93 non-priority children on the waiting list.

During the year two Nursery Assistants resigned and one Nursery Assistant retired and suitable replacements were made. One Nursery Student gained her N.N.E.B. certificate, and remained at the Nursery as a Nursery Assistant.

The charge for admission for non-priority children (both parents working) was increased from 4/6d. to 5/- per day per child as from the 1st April.

Costs

A comparative Statement on the costs of the Day Nursery for the year ended 31st March, 1958, was received from the County Treasurer, and the daily cost per child during the year was as follows:—

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1956/57: 13/03¼d. | 1957/58: 12/5d. |
|-------------------|-----------------|

Average cost throughout the County was:—

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1956/57: 12/7¾d. | 1957/58: 13/5¾d. |
|------------------|------------------|

MIDWIVES

Number of Births (adjusted for inward and outward transfers)
—1,523 (including 33 stillbirths).

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

Farndon—Repairs were carried out to the District Nurse's car at a cost of £54.

Mouldsworth—Interior decoration was carried out at a cost of £95.

Saughall—Part interior decoration was carried out at a cost of £52.

Tarvin—Interior decoration was carried out at a cost of £107 and furnishing replacements were approved by the Committee at an estimated cost of £100.

Tattenhall—Part interior decoration was carried out at a cost of £64, and a living room carpet was purchased at a cost of £24. 17s. 6d.

The District Nurse, Miss M. U. Burke, resigned on the 31st August, and was replaced by Miss Simpson, who commenced duty on the 27th November.

Tilston—Miss Priest, the District Nurse, retired on the 30th November.

CONVALESCENCE

The sum of £155 was allocated for the year ending 31st March, 1959, for Convalescent treatment.

Three cases were sent for convalescence at a cost to the County Council of £37. 4s. 0d.

One case for 10 days, the other two cases for 14 days each.

CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE

Mrs. K. C. Kershaw represented the Committee at the National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare Conference, held in Glasgow from the 25th to 27th June, and on her return gave an excellent and most interesting report to the Committee.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Total fees paid for the period 1.1.58—31.12.58 amounted to £1,264. 7s. 0d.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A. VACCINATION

| (1) Primary Vaccination— | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| (a) Pre-School Children | 603 | 583 | 1186 |
| (b) School Children | 158 | 174 | 332 |
| (c) Adults | 72 | 178 | 250 |
| Total | 833 | 935 | 1768 |
| (2) Re-Vaccination— | | | |
| (a) Pre-School Children | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| (b) School Children | 56 | 60 | 116 |
| (c) Adults | 144 | 236 | 380 |
| Total | 203 | 302 | 505 |

B. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Incomplete—

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Pre-School Children | 274 | 265 | 539 |
| (b) School Children | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 276 | 266 | 542 |

Completed—

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Pre-School Children | 407 | 424 | 831 |
| (b) School Children | 11 | 13 | 24 |
| Total | 418 | 437 | 855 |

Re-Immunised—

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|-----|
| All Children | 61 | 75 | 136 |
|-------------------|----|----|-----|

C. WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| (a) Pre-School Children | 603 | 629 | 1232 |
| (b) School Children | 11 | 11 | 22 |
| Total | 614 | 640 | 1254 |

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1958.

The fees paid to Doctors for Vaccination and Immunisation are slightly more than double the amount for the previous year (1957—£600. 17s. 6d.). The reason for the increase being that prior to 1958 Doctors did not carry out Poliomyelitis Vaccination at their Surgeries, all vaccinations being carried out at the Welfare Centres. Also the number of clinics for vaccination against Poliomyelitis was much greater than previous years.

In addition, owing to the outbreak of smallpox in the Bebington area early in the year, many more children were vaccinated against smallpox.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The scheme for vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued throughout the year. At the beginning of the year there were 2,835 children on the register awaiting vaccination. Towards the close of 1957 the Ministry extended the scheme to include children up to the age of 15, expectant mothers, Medical Practitioners and their families, and Ambulance personnel and their families. As a result a further 4,500 registrations were received during the first two months of the year. Registrations continued to be received throughout the year.

Commencing in January, parents could, if they so desired, elect to have their children vaccinated against Poliomyelitis by their own family doctor at his surgery. Only about 7½% to 10%

of the children vaccinated during the year have been vaccinated by the child's family doctor, the remainder being vaccinated at one of the Welfare Clinics or at school.

In August the Ministry further extended the scheme to include young persons up to the age of 25, and also recommended that the number of injections given be extended to three, the interval between the 2nd and 3rd injections to be not less than seven months. Not many registrations have been received from persons between the age of 15 and 25.

The following is a summary of the vaccinations carried out during the year:—

| | |
|---|------|
| No. of persons (all groups) given 1st and 2nd injection | 8734 |
| No. of persons (all groups) given 2nd injection (having had 1st injection the previous year) | 450 |
| No. of persons (all groups) given 1st injection only | 538 |
| No. of persons (all groups) given 3rd injection | 3700 |
| No. of persons (all groups) awaiting vaccination (31.12.1958) | 479 |

The vaccinations were carried out at the following Centres:— Ellesmere Port, Little Sutton, Upton, Hoole, Chester, Huntington, Kelsall Tarvin, Tattenhall, Malpas, Farndon, Saughall Christleton, Ince, Barrow, Tarporley and Mickle Trafford.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

The scheme for the B.C.G. Vaccination of school children between their 13th and 14th birthdays continued throughout the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out:—

| | |
|---|-----|
| No. of Consent forms issued | 648 |
| No. of Children for whom Consent forms were returned | 501 |
| No. of Children tested by Mantoux Test | 482 |
| No. of Children positive to Mantoux Test | 103 |
| No. of Children vaccinated with B.C.G. | 356 |
| No. of Children given 8 weeks follow up Mantoux Test | 226 |
| No. of Children positive 8 weeks follow up Mantoux Test | 226 |
| No. of Children given 12 months follow up Mantoux Test | 179 |
| No. of Children positive to 12 months follow up Mantoux Test | 175 |

| DISTRICT | DISEASE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----|----|----|----------------|-----|---|----|---------|----|-----------|----|-----------|---|----------------|---|------------|---|-----------|---|---------------|---|--------------------|---|-------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| | Scarlet Fever | | | | Whooping Cough | | | | Measles | | Pneumonia | | Dysentery | | Food Poisoning | | Erysipelas | | Paralytic | | Non-Paralytic | | Acute Encephalitis | | Puerperal Pyrexia | | Meningococcal Infection | | Paratyphoid Fever | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Ellesmere Port Municipal Borough | 9 | 16 | 19 | 10 | 154 | 146 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Chester Rural District | 17 | 8 | 14 | 11 | 89 | 84 | 1 | 6 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Tarvin Rural District | 9 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 28 | 27 | 2 | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 35 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 271 | 257 | 7 | 14 | 34 | 42 | 22 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — |

[illegible]

Statistics relating to cases of Tuberculosis on Notification Registers of District Councils in the Division

| | MALES | | | FEMALES | | | TOTALS | | |
|--|-----------|---------------|-------|-----------|---------------|-------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary | Total | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary | Total | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary | Total |
| 1. Cases on Register at 1.1.58 | 261 | 89 | 350 | 252 | 85 | 337 | 513 | 174 | 687 |
| 2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year | 28 | 3 | 31 | 29 | 6 | 35 | 57 | 9 | 66 |
| 3. Number of cases re-moved from Register during year | 23 | 5 | 28 | 17 | 8 | 25 | 40 | 13 | 53 |
| 4. Cases on Register at 31.12.58 | 266 | 87 | 353 | 264 | 83 | 347 | *530 | *170 | *700 |

* This figure is made up as follows:—

| | Pulmonary | Non-Pulmonary | Total |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Ellesmere Port M.B. | 254 | 79 | 333 |
| 2. Chester R.D.C. | 173 | 38 | 211 |
| 3. Tarvin R.D.C. | 103 | 53 | 156 |
| | <u>530</u> | <u>170</u> | <u>700</u> |

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The total mileage performed by the vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service was 10,000 miles higher than the previous year. The number of patients transported showed an increase of 200 over the previous year.

A new Dennis Ambulance was received during the year, replacing the Humber Ambulance which was extensively damaged in an accident.

An additional Midget Head was purchased for the Stephenson Minuteman Resuscitator at a cost of £30.

The Committee approved the arrangements for the maintenance of the grounds at the Ambulance Depot by the Ellesmere Port Borough Council.

All vehicles are regularly serviced and maintained, and repairs are carried out by our own staff at the Ambulance Depot.

The Ambulance Service was involved in three road accidents during the year, in two cases the drivers were not considered blameworthy, in the remaining case it was considered that the driver made an error of judgement and was blameworthy.

Thirteen members of the Ambulance Service received awards from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for safe driving during 1957.

| | No. of Vehicles 1 | Total No. of Journeys 2 | Total No. Patients carried 3 | No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys included in Column 3 4 | Total Mileage 5 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| A. Directly Provided— | | | | | |
| Ambulances | 3 | 1,857 | 5,192 | 587 | 40,867 |
| Cars | 4 | 2,910 | 11,022 | 286 | 108,355 |
| B! By Agency— | | | | | |
| Ambulances | 5 | 4,494 | 3,494 | 266 | 18,186 |
| Cars | — | — | — | — | — |
| (Chester City Amb.) | | | | | |
| C. Supplementary— | | | | | |
| Ambulances | — | 4 | 4 | — | 73 |
| W.V.S. Taxi/Cars | — | 153 | 153 | — | 3,418 |

A comparative Statement on the costs of the Ambulance Service for the year ended 31st March, 1958, was received from the County Treasurer, and the cost per mile was $2\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{2}$ d. per mile. The average cost throughout the County was $2\frac{1}{8}\frac{1}{2}$ d. per mile.

The personnel establishment of the Ambulance Service is as follows:—

- 1 Supervisor.
- 1 Senior Driver.
- 13 Driver Attendants.
- 1 Driver Mechanic.
- 1 Female Cleaner (part-time).

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The demand for the Domestic Help Service again shows an increase, 135 cases were attended during the year, an increase of 15 over the previous year. Similarly the number of cases of continued need at the end of the year shows an increase of 8 cases over the previous year. The majority of the persons requiring domestic help are aged persons who by reason of their age, infirmity, or ill-health, require a little assistance each day, or in some cases once, twice or three times per week. The number of hours supplied varies in accordance with the need of each case. In many cases the need for domestic help is a permanent one, generally for the remainder of the patient's life. In other cases the need is a temporary one; the patient waiting to be admitted to hospital or to one of the County Council Residential homes for the aged.

The department works in close co-operation with the Hospitals and the County Welfare Department in this connection and, whenever possible, everything is done to assist the aged, infirm, and those in ill-health. Every effort is made in conjunction with the Health Visitors, to keep the costs down to a minimum without impairing the efficiency of the service.

A Domestic Help supervisor was appointed by the County Health Committee to supervise the Domestic Help Service in the Deeside Division and the Ellesmere Port area of this Division. The Domestic Help Supervisor commenced her duties in July, and has relieved the Health Visitors considerably. It is hoped that at some future date it may be possible to have a Supervisor to supervise the Domestic Help Service for the whole of the Division.

The following is a summary of the cases of continued need at the end of the year:—

- 2 cases have had Domestic Help for 8 years.
- 1 case has had Domestic Help for 7 years.
- 3 cases have had Domestic Help for 6 years.
- 2 cases have had Domestic Help for 4 years.
- 3 cases have had Domestic Help for 3½ years.
- 4 cases have had Domestic Help for 3 years.
- 1 case has had Domestic Help for 2½ years.
- 6 cases have had Domestic Help for 2 years.
- 7 cases have had Domestic Help for 1½ years.
- 13 cases have had Domestic Help for 1 year.
- 24 cases have had Domestic Help for less than 1 year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

| | |
|--|-----|
| A. Number of new applicants | 126 |
| (of these 51 were cancelled) | |
| B. Number of Domestic Helps employed at 31.12.58 | 54 |
| C. Number of cases attended during the year | 135 |
| D. Number of cases of continued need at 31.12.58 | 66 |

25 cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year.

6 cases were defined as Future Recovery cases.

1 Future Recovery case was cancelled.

In 2 Future Recovery cases collection was deferred.

In 1 Future Recovery case the County Treasurer was authorised to recover the accumulative balance.

In 2 Future Recovery cases recovery of the accumulative balance was approved.

In 5 cases the debt was cancelled.

In 6 cases the assessment was reduced.

In 1 case the assessment was not reduced.

In 1 case the engagement of a relative was approved.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER CARE

A. Number of Cases Investigated in Division:—

(1) Tuberculosis—

| | |
|---|-----|
| (a) No. of Forms C. & A.C. 4 completed | 30 |
| (Primary Investigation) | |
| (b) No. of Forms C. & A.C. 22 completed | 353 |
| (Follow-up visits) | |
| (c) No. of cases where patient has been found to have:— | |
| (a) Removed from area | 9 |
| (b) Been cured | 2 |
| (c) Recovered | 31 |
| (d) Died | 7 |
| (e) Lost sight of | 1 |
| (f) Non-tuberculous | 3 |

(2) Other than Tuberculosis—

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B. Nursing Equipment

221 articles were loaned to elderly, nursing and handicapped persons during the year. The period of loan varies in accordance with the need; in the first instance the loan is for three months, which can be extended if required. There is a deposit of 2/6d. or 10/- on each article (depending on the nature of the article) and in some cases (wheel-chair, commode, bed, mattress) a weekly rental is charged. During the year the income from rentals was £32. 11s. 0d.

The Nursing Equipment is mainly stored at the Welfare Centre, Ellesmere Port, and the following is an inventory of the various items held at the Welfare Centre (many of the items listed are out on loan):—

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----|------------------------------|----|
| Invalid wheel-chairs | 14 | Urinals | 18 |
| Water/Air beds | 2 | Air rings | 10 |
| Dunlopillo mattresses | 2 | Rubber cushions | 1 |
| Pillows | 11 | Sputum mugs | 2 |
| Sheets, single | 18 | Sputum flasks | 12 |
| Sheets, draw | 17 | Breast pumps | 3 |
| Sheets, rubber | 20 | Commodes | 5 |
| Bed pulley | 1 | Crutches (pairs) | 2 |
| Bed cages | 2 | 3-legged walking sticks | 2 |
| Back rests | 11 | Plastic bags | 6 |
| Bed pans, various | 21 | Linen bags | 6 |

In addition, the District Nurse/Midwives each have a small stock of the smaller items—bedpans, urinals, rubber sheets, etc.

C. Handicapped Persons

(i) At the end of the year there were 56 cases on the handicapped persons register, many of whom were in regular employment. All cases have been visited by the Health Visitors during the year, and in the majority of cases where the person was not in regular employment the services of the County Council were not required.

Towards the end of the year the W.V.S. announced that they had a tentative scheme for the assistance of the house-bound disabled person. Names and addresses of those persons who it was thought might benefit from the service have been forwarded to the local Secretary of the W.V.S.

In the autumn the W.V.S. commenced a Meals on Wheels service in the Ellesmere Port area for the house-bound and the aged.

(ii) Number of cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Act)—Nil.

D. Foul Washing Service

The Foul Washing Service was introduced to this Division during the year. The scheme provides sheets (single and draw) for patients who are incontinent and are being nursed at home. The fouled laundry is collected twice weekly and taken to the hospital (Clatterbridge or Chester City) for laundering. A charge is made for the service in accordance with the income of the household.

E. Accidents in the Home

In October the Ministry launched a Publicity Campaign on the Guarding of Fires. The Ministry carried out the National Publicity through the Television and the National Press. The Division carried out the local publicity with letters to the local press; posters large and small in the various Clinics, Council Offices, Post Offices, shops, Public Houses, Public Halls throughout the area of the Division. In addition pamphlets were enclosed with all appointments sent out in connection with scheme for the vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III

In my capacity as the Representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, I carried out two visits of inspection to Shotwick House, Great Saughall. Very little change had taken place since 1957 and the excellent conditions of this establishment continued to maintain a high level.

ESTIMATES, 1959/60

Estimates for the year 1959/60 were submitted, and following is a summary of the items recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates:—

| | £ |
|--|---------|
| Welfare Centres | 2,615 |
| Day Nursery | 2,470 |
| Midwifery | 210 |
| Health Visiting | 30 |
| Home Nursing | 1,350 |
| Vaccination and Immunisation | 690 |
| Poliomyelitis Vaccination | 565 |
| Ambulance Service | 7,569 |
| Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care | 325 |
| Domestic Helps | 4,515 |
| Administration | 7,025 |
| Payment of County Districts for Notifications of Infectious Diseases | 250 |
| | <hr/> |
| | £27,614 |
| | <hr/> |

